

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-referenced application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A method of claim 1 preventing the repudiation of digitally-signed electronic documents, the method comprising:
 - receiving a plurality of electronic documents during a first and second time interval;
 - forming a message digest for each of the plurality of electronic documents;
 - forming a first super-message digest derived at least in part from each of the message digests received during the first time interval;
 - forming a second super-message digest derived at least in part from each of the message digests received during the second time interval and from the first super-message digest;
 - transmitting the second super-message digest to a timestamp authority and receiving a timestamp therefrom; and
 - recording each of the message digests, first and second super-message digests, and timestamp in an audit log,

wherein at least one of the plurality of electronic documents corresponds to a file attachment in an electronic mail message.

3. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A method of claim 1 preventing the repudiation of digitally-signed electronic documents, the method comprising:

receiving a plurality of electronic documents during a first and second time interval;

forming a message digest for each of the plurality of electronic documents;

forming a first super-message digest derived at least in part from each of the message digests received during the first time interval;

forming a second super-message digest derived at least in part from each of the message digests received during the second time interval and from the first super-message digest;

transmitting the second super-message digest to a timestamp authority and receiving a timestamp therefrom; and

recording each of the message digests, first and second super-message digests, and timestamp in an audit log,

wherein the first and second time intervals are pre-determined.

4. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A method of claim 1 preventing the repudiation of digitally-
signed electronic documents, the method comprising:

receiving a plurality of electronic documents during a first and second time
interval;

forming a message digest for each of the plurality of electronic documents;

forming a first super-message digest derived at least in part from each of the
message digests received during the first time interval;

forming a second super-message digest derived at least in part from each of the
message digests received during the second time interval and from the first super-
message digest;

transmitting the second super-message digest to a timestamp authority and
receiving a timestamp therefrom; and

recording each of the message digests, first and second super-message digests,
and timestamp in an audit log,

wherein the duration of the first and second time intervals are dynamically
determined from a number of electronic documents anticipated during a particular time of
day.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[5]]~~ 7 wherein the ~~[[first]]~~ second super-message
digest is further derived from the timestamp associated with ~~the first super-message~~
~~digest and from~~ a prior super-message digest.

7. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A method of claim 5 preventing the repudiation of digitally-

signed electronic documents, the method comprising:

receiving a plurality of electronic documents during a first and second time interval;

forming a message digest for each of the plurality of electronic documents;

forming a first super-message digest derived at least in part from each of the message digests received during the first time interval;

forming a second super-message digest derived at least in part from each of the message digests received during the second time interval and from the first super-message digest;

transmitting the second super-message digest to a timestamp authority and receiving a timestamp therefrom;

recording each of the message digests, first and second super-message digests, and timestamp in an audit log; and

recording a timestamp associated with the first super-message digest in the audit log,

wherein the second super-message digest is further derived from the timestamp associated with the first super-message digest.

Claims 8-16 (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A computer-readable medium of claim 17 comprising code that prevents the repudiation of digitally-signed electronic documents, the code performing the steps of:

receiving a plurality of electronic documents during a first and second time interval;

forming a message digest for each of the plurality of electronic documents;

forming a first super-message digest derived at least in part from each of the message digests received during the first time interval;

forming a second super-message digest derived at least in part from each of the message digests received during the second time interval and from the first super-message digest;

transmitting the second super-message digest to a timestamp authority and receiving a timestamp therefrom; and

recording each of the message digests, first and second super-message digests, and timestamp in an audit log,

wherein at least one of the plurality of electronic documents corresponds to a file attachment in an electronic mail message.

19. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A computer-readable medium of claim 17 comprising code that prevents the repudiation of digitally-signed electronic documents, the code performing the steps of:
- receiving a plurality of electronic documents during a first and second time interval;
 - forming a message digest for each of the plurality of electronic documents;
 - forming a first super-message digest derived at least in part from each of the message digests received during the first time interval;
 - forming a second super-message digest derived at least in part from each of the message digests received during the second time interval and from the first super-message digest;
 - transmitting the second super-message digest to a timestamp authority and receiving a timestamp therefrom; and
 - recording each of the message digests, first and second super-message digests, and timestamp in an audit log,
- wherein the first and second time intervals are pre-determined.

20. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A computer-readable medium of claim 17 comprising code that prevents the repudiation of digitally-signed electronic documents, the code performing the steps of:

receiving a plurality of electronic documents during a first and second time interval;

forming a message digest for each of the plurality of electronic documents;

forming a first super-message digest derived at least in part from each of the message digests received during the first time interval;

forming a second super-message digest derived at least in part from each of the message digests received during the second time interval and from the first super-message digest;

transmitting the second super-message digest to a timestamp authority and receiving a timestamp therefrom; and

recording each of the message digests, first and second super-message digests, and timestamp in an audit log,

wherein the duration of the first and second time intervals are dynamically determined from a number of electronic documents anticipated during a particular time of day.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim ~~[[21]]~~ 23 wherein the ~~first~~ second super-message digest is further derived from the timestamp associated with ~~the~~ first super-message digest and from a prior super-message digest.

23. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A computer-readable medium ~~of claim 21~~ comprising code that prevents the repudiation of digitally-signed electronic documents, the code performing the steps of:

receiving a plurality of electronic documents during a first and second time interval;

forming a message digest for each of the plurality of electronic documents;

forming a first super-message digest derived at least in part from each of the message digests received during the first time interval;

forming a second super-message digest derived at least in part from each of the message digests received during the second time interval and from the first super-message digest;

transmitting the second super-message digest to a timestamp authority and receiving a timestamp therefrom;

recording each of the message digests, first and second super-message digests, and timestamp in an audit log; and

recording a timestamp associated with the first super-message digest in the audit log,

wherein the second super-message digest is further derived from the timestamp associated with the first super-message digest.